ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

ARPA Activities in Iran

Activities of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) in Iran are the product of its assigned DoD responsibility to assist, through research and development, friendly nations to overcome insurgency threats in their early stages and specific requests by the U. S. Country Team in Iran and the Iranian Government for support in related areas. All ARPA projects in Iran have been approved by the State Department and CINCSTRIKE.

Since such R&D assistance cannot be provided everywhere, ARPA has been carrying out its mission by selecting key countries whose strategic position is important to the U. S., and which are desirous of and responsive to such support. The selected countries serve as typical examples and opportunities to develop appropriate techniques and equipment under distinctive sets of conditions. This will improve understanding of the implications of those conditions for internal security and defense, and will, it is expected, permit extrapolation of the lessons learned to operational conditions elsewhere. It must be noted, also, that support or undertaking of R&D activities overseas is not within the legal authority of the MAP.

Iran is a key country in U. S. overseas strategic considerations, and provides a totally different environment from Southeast Asia, where most of ARPA's overseas work has so far been concentrated. Iran thus presents a distinctive set of environmental, social, economic, and military security factors, so that R&D on Iranian counterinsurgency problems is of significant interest from the viewpoint of U. S. national security activities in the Middle East.

With this background, the U. S. Country Team and the Imperial Iranian Government in Tehran began in 1965 to request that ARPA support security-related research and engineering studies in Iran. It is expected by the U. S. Country Team and by ARPA that our response to these requests can aid ARPA in fulfilling its remote area conflict research responsibilities to the DoD; it can aid the U. S. Country Team in acquiring data essential to objective formulation and recommendation of U. S. policies and programs in Iran; and it can aid the Iranian Government in solving its externally-stimulated internal security problems.

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ARPA Activities in Iran (Continued)

For example, ARPA has been asked to sponsor studies of Iranian armed forces communications, firepower, mobility, and surveillance requirements and capabilities. Such studies are analogous to those performed by other DoD research organizations for the U. S. armed forces. They will take into account the missions the Iranian forces must be prepared to perform, the physical or environmental factors affecting equipment needs and performance, the social and technical attributes which might significantly constrain the performance of military organization, and will consider the cost and effectiveness of alternative means for accomplishing the missions within these constraints. With such information, the U. S. Country Team (in particular the Ambassador, Chief of ARMISH/MAAG and Chief, GENMISH) would be in position to provide objective advice to the Iranian government on how best to allocate its internal defense resources. In the process of accomplishing these studies, ARPA would expect to obtain for the DoD basic data and results which can be extrapolated to other areas with analogous sets of conditions.

Other studies requested of ARPA by the U. S. Country Team in Iran, either on its own initiative or in response to requests by Iranian officials, include the following: Studies to improve the Armed Forces' military aptitude and qualification testing program; studies to improve the Armed Forces literacy programs; research support in the areas of mobilization planning and in-country production of small military equipment.

We will be pleased to provide specifics on each project ARPA now has under way in Iran, if desired.

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